

January 23, 1963

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

- | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 - 2 | Vietnam |
| 3 - 5 | Cuba |
| 6 - 7 | ICBM |
| 8 - 10 | Budget |
| 11 - 12 | POLARIS (Nassau Agreement) |
| 13 | POLARIS - Berthing Facilities |
| 14 | India |
| 15 - 16 | Labor ~ Strikes in defense plants |
| 17 | Saudi Arabia |
| 18 | Azores |
| 19 - 20 | Manned Aircraft vs Missiles |
| 21 | Spanish Bases |
| 22 - 23 | TFX |
| 24 - 25 | Dipoles |

QUESTION -- A columnist has reported that a U.S. Navy destroyer recently tried to stop a Soviet merchant ship that apparently was enroute to Cuba. The column states that the ship refused to stop, identify herself, or give her destination; that the U.S. commander requested permission to board and inspect the ship and that this was denied.

FACTS -- U.S. Navy ships customarily exchange call signs with ships they meet on the high seas. Our ships have done so with Soviet ships on a number of occasions since the quarantine was lifted. At no time has an American destroyer captain attempted to stop and search a Soviet ship since the quarantine of Cuba was lifted.

QUESTION -- How many Cubans are now undergoing training in the U.S. Army?

FACTS -- As of January 17 there were 2,107. All are stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina

QUESTION -- Have any of the Bay of Pigs Prisoners volunteered for this program?

FACTS -- No, not to our knowledge thus far.

Question -- What comment do you have on the news stories this week that the United States had promised no air cover for the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Facts -- The Department of Defense has had no comment on the Bay of Pigs matter.